

# HAUNTED TORRECHIARA CASTLE IN ITALY

BY PAUL DALE ROBERTS, HALO PARANORMAL INVESTIGATIONS

The year was 1974, and I was stationed at Merrell Barracks in Nurnberg, Germany. I was surprised when my sergeant major invited me to visit his wife's restaurant in Bologna, Italy. I said yes, of course.

We had a great time, and while there, I met several new friends. I mentioned to them that while I was in Northern Italy, I wanted to see Torrechiara Castle.

So, the next day, my new friends and I headed out to the site. In 1974, I wasn't a paranormal investigator yet, but I sure was interested in the paranormal. I had heard that the castle was very haunted.

When we arrived at Torrechiara Castle, I marveled at the castle's beauty and architect. It looked majestic on the hilltop and somewhat foreboding.

Our tour guide gave us a nice rundown of the castle's history. He told us about the romance between the noble Count Pier Maria Rossi and his love Bianca Pellegrini. The tour guide also explained that the Count's spirit is seen walking on the Rio delle Favole, which is a road leading to the entrance of the castle. He also said that a tourist was walking on this road and heard the disembodied voice of a woman saying: "nunc et semper," which is Latin for "now and forever."

## An Everlasting Love

The love of the Count and Bianca was so strong that in the Golden Room of the castle, which was built in 1448 through 1462, frescoed on the ribbon binding are the interweaved hearts bearing Bianca and Pier Maria initials.

Bianca's spirit is also seen wandering around the castle hallways, and she is known to tap on tourists' shoulders. A female tourist once saw Bianca standing behind her as she gazed into a mirror.

Pier Maria Rossi is known as The Magnificent. He was a condottiere, which is equivalent to a captain. He was also a Count of nearby San Secondo. The Count oversaw and fought alongside the Sforza during their local battles



Italy's Torrechiara Castle is home to several spirits, including spirit soldiers and spirits who remain in love in the afterlife.  
(Photo by Mdntb via [Wikimedia](#))

for power when the Parma area was under the authority of the Duchy of Milan.

Our tour guide said that at times you will hear the sounds of battle in the distance. He believes the sounds were from ghostly soldiers who continue to fight over territory and power.

The Torrechiara Castle was built for one person — Bianca, according to the Count. Castle Torrechiara's name derives from the word "torchio," which means the machine that presses grapes and olives. The land where

the castle stands is known for winemaking and the production of olive oil from their many olive trees.

### Other Ghostly Encounters

There are two other ghostly sightings at this castle. Hunters near the Parma area have seen the animal spirits of three wolves and a Marsican brown bear.

Two hunters walking in the Parma area heard rustling in the nearby bushes. To their surprise, they saw the large bear side-by-side with the three wolves. The bear and wolves acted like they were going to attack. The hunters steadied their rifles only to see the bear and wolves vanish before their eyes.

The tour guide said that on one particular night, he was walking down the hallway and saw three children running down the hallway laughing and skipping. As he approached the kids to see why they were in the castle after closing hours, they walked through a door and vanished. The kids were wearing renaissance-type clothing. The tour guide believes that these may be the Count's ghostly children.

I asked the guide if he thought the castle was haunted by anything evil. He said that he felt the spirits of this castle were very happy and that the Count and Bianca's love is immortal and continues into the afterlife. ♦



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